

THE CULTURE OF FLOWERS.

We cordially invite all interested in the various branches of horticulture to send questions upon any subject on which information may be desired, also, to report new varieties, or, in fact, anything interesting in this line.

The month of September is generally a pretty busy one in the flower garden. All decaying flower stems should be cut back and preparations made for seeding early annuals and perennials, which had best be done during September with the latter and early in November with the former.

Any of our readers who intend taking up plants for winter blooming should prepare for it now. Give all old pots a thorough washing inside and outside, and if new pots are to be used, soak them in water for 48 hours.

by mixing rotted sods from a loamy pasture and rotted refuse hops (a year old) from a brewery in the proportion of two of sods to one of hops, a spoonful of powdered charcoal mixed in each pot, will be found to do wonders.

The man who picked up a kernel of giant powder and made his autograph upon the hot stove, thinking it was charcoal now employs an amanuensis to sign his bank checks.

The above is an exact representation of a plant we grow in our garden during this season. It is the Castor Oil Plant, Ricinus Sat. Od. Emporbilaceae, is a pretty fair specimen, five feet in height and with all its branches occupying a space twelve feet in circumference.



A SINGLE FLOWER OF THE FANNY, NINE INCHES IN CIRCUMFERENCE.

What wonderful improvements can be made in flowers by proper cultivation is amply illustrated in our little favorite, the Fanny or Heartstone, (Viola tricolor, Nat. Od. Violaceae).

This engraving represents the Fanny as found sixty years ago in Europe, and is by being carefully treated, to this day, small as ever in many gardens in Portland. With proper cultivation we have this season produced Fannies nine inches in circumference (as shown above) and of all imaginable colors.

nished mornings and evenings. Plants that have flourished all Summer and are wanted for winter blooming in the house, can be cut back now, potted and left outdoors until the latter part of November.



This cut will give some idea of a well grown plant. It loves the shade and shines the bright glare of the king of day. The same seed that produces our nine-inch Fannies brought forth in the same soil and in the same pot in a hot and dry locality soil of the major-portion.

We have in our yard a plant of the common Sunflower (Helianthus) 12 feet in height with leaves 16 inches long by 12 wide, the largest flower measuring 9 feet in circumference.

A Buffalo lawyer received a letter from a man in Oswego, who wanted a divorce. The letter concluded as follows: "While I was taking a bath my wife slipped out of the house, ran to the train and eloped with him. She has been waiting for this for nearly two years, I am convinced."

The man who picked up a kernel of giant powder and made his autograph upon the hot stove, thinking it was charcoal now employs an amanuensis to sign his bank checks.

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